

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A toothpaste composition obtained by adding, ~~or combining, or mixing~~ the following components (A), (B) and (C1):

(A) from 30 to 60 wt% of erythritol having an average particle size of 200 µm or less,

(B) from 15 to 30 wt% of water, and

(C1) from 0.6 to 3 wt% of a binder,

wherein equation (1) is satisfied prior to the adding, combining or mixing:

$$\text{(wt\% of (B) water)} \times 0.3 + 25 \leq \text{(wt\% of (A) erythritol)} \quad (1).$$

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A toothpaste composition comprising ~~the following components (A), (B) and (C1):~~

(A) from 25 to 60 wt% of erythritol having an average particle size of 200 µm or less,

(B) from 15 to 30 wt% of water, and

(C1) from 0.6 to ~~[[30]]~~ 3 wt% of a binder.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A toothpaste composition ~~comprising the following components (A), (B) and (C2)~~ obtained by adding, combining or mixing:

(A) from 30 to 60 wt% of erythritol having an average particle size of 200 µm or less,

(B) from 15 to 30 wt% of water, and

(C2) ~~(C)~~ from 0.6 to 3 wt% of at least two binders selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenan, xanthan gum, sodium polyacrylate, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, pectin, tragacanth gum, arabic gum, guar gum, karaya gum, locust bean gum, gellan gum, tamarind gum, Psyllium seed gum, polyvinyl alcohol, sodium chondroitin sulfate, and methoxyethylene maleic anhydride copolymer,

wherein equation (1) is satisfied prior to the adding, combining or mixing:

$$\text{(wt\% of (B) water)} \times 0.3 + 25 \leq \text{(wt\% of (A) erythritol)} \quad (1).$$

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The toothpaste composition according to Claim 3, wherein ~~Component~~ (C2) comprises ~~contains~~ at least two binders selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, carboxymethylcellulose sodium, carrageenan and xanthan gum.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The toothpaste composition according to Claim 3, wherein ~~Component~~ (C2) comprises ~~contains~~ at least three binders selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, carboxymethylcellulose sodium, carrageenan, xanthan gum, sodium polyacrylate, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, pectin, tragacanth gum, gum arabic, guar gum, karaya gum, locust bean gum, gellan gum, tamarind gum, Psyllium seed gum, polyvinyl alcohol, sodium chondroitin sulfate, and methoxyethylene maleic anhydride copolymer.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The toothpaste composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the composition has a viscosity at 25°C of from 1500 to 5000 dPa.s.

Claim 7 (New): The toothpaste composition according to claim 2, wherein the composition has a viscosity at 25°C of from 1500 to 5000 dPa.s.

Claim 8 (New): The toothpaste composition according to claim 3, wherein the composition has a viscosity at 25°C of from 1500 to 5000 dPa.s.

Claim 9 (New): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1, wherein (C1) comprises at least one binder selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, carrageenan, xanthan gum, sodium polyacrylate, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, pectin, tragacanth gum, arabic gum, guar gum, karaya gum, locust bean gum, gellan gum, tamarind gum, Psyllium seed gum, polyvinyl alcohol, sodium chondroitin sulfate, and methoxyethylene maleic anhydride copolymer.

Claim 10 (New): The toothpaste composition according to claim 2, wherein (A) is present in an amount of 35 to 55 wt% and (C1) is present in an amount of 0.8 to 2.5 wt%.

Claim 11 (New): The toothpaste composition according to claim 2, wherein (A) is present in an amount of 38 to 50 wt% and (C1) is present in an amount of 1.0 to 2.0 wt%.

Claim 12 (New): The toothpaste composition according to claim 1, wherein the erythritol (A) is obtained by grinding crystalline erythritol.

Claim 13 (New): The toothpaste composition according to claim 2, wherein the erythritol (A) is obtained by grinding crystalline erythritol.